

MONSTERS STEAL LUPITA'S DRESS

\$150K PEARL OSCARS GOWN GOES MISSING. PAGE 19



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WILL POWER

Old and new. Will Smith shares space with "It" girl Margot Robbie in the new comic thriller "Focus." Robbie talks to us about adjusting to stardom, while Smith talks about his "full-on, steamy, grown man-ness." PAGE 16

NYC Uzbeks distance selves from terrorists

PAGE 02

Rent control renewal process begins

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Metabolism culprit in processed food found

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Fantasy hoops: Stars to grab down the stretch

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Margot Robbie plays an aspiring con artist who gets involved with longtime pro Will Smith in the scamming comedy "Focus." / FRANK MASI

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2 'DAILY VIDEO: Mary Poppins sings death metal'

3 'Could drones replace ambulances in the future?'



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Terror trio money man left a trail

East coast. In Florida, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Virginia, one suspect made money to fund terror, say feds.

The accused money man in the Brooklyn trio of ISIS wannabes had financial interests — and wary neighbors — up and down the Atlantic Seaboard, it emerged Thursday, a day after his arrest in Florida.

Officials in Florida, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Virginia were jolted by federal charges that Abror Habibov, 30, an Uzbekistan national, was operating in their states and using his profits, to fund men looking to join

the Islamic State terrorists.

Abror Habibov, 30, ran cellphone and kitchen kiosks in major shopping malls and one of his two co-defendants nabbed Wednesday, Kazakhstan-born Akhror Saidakhmetov, 19, worked for him in Philly. Saidakhmetov and Uzbekistan-born Abdurasul Hasanovich Juraboev, 24, wanted to fly to Turkey, sneak into Syria, and join ISIS, a federal indictment says, and if that didn't work, the intention was to hit America.

Habibov planned was to keep funding radicalized young Muslims, the government says.

The News Journal in Delaware reports that Habibov called his kiosk at The Dover Mall, "I Cell Fix."

Court records also reveal Habibov to be an alleged deadbeat, sued for not paying rent on an



New York Police Commissioner Bill Bratton discussed the arrest of three Brooklyn men Wednesday who allegedly plotted to travel to Syria to join ISIS. / GETTY IMAGES

apartment he was renting on Greenway Drive at Dover Country Club. A neighbor described the occupant as "pretty weird."

Florida appears to be a major center of operation for Habibov, who had kiosks in Orange Park Mall, and two other cities, reports WJXT.

Habibov will be back in court in Florida March 3. The other two men were arraigned in Brooklyn.

All are charged with conspiracy to aid ISIS and being held without bail.

JOHN A. OSWALD

Virginia

Fourth man held in link to Brooklyn ISIS group

A fourth man is being questioned in Virginia over links to the ISIS terror wannabes in Brooklyn. NBC News reports, citing unidentified law enforcement sources.

The man is being held on civil immigration charges, the networks aid. He reportedly spent time in Norfolk, Virginia, about a 10-minute drive from Chesapeake, where one of the suspects arrested in Wednesday's raids worked, NBC reported.

No criminal charges have been filed against the man, the network said. The FBI is looking into any potential ties he may have to the three suspects rounded up Wednesday — 24-year-old Abdurasul Hasanovich Juraboev, 19-year-old Akhror Saidakhmetov and 30-year-old suspect Abror Habibov.

METRO

Rejected. Uzbeks: 'We don't want to be known this way'



Uzbeki restaurants, like Chayhana Salom in Sheepshead Bay, have opened in Brighton Beach, as well as Queens' Forest Hills and Rego Park sections. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Leaders of Brooklyn's Uzbek and Muslim communities distanced themselves from the three men arrested on Thursday for plotting to join extremist group the Islamic State in Syria.

"Uzbeks are not well known in America," said Farhod Sulton, president of Brooklyn's Vatandosh Uzbek-American Federation. "We don't want to be known this way."

Sulton, whose group shares a street address with the travel agency on Coney Island Avenue that one of the suspects used to purchase a planned flight to Istanbul, said the 50,000 or so Uzbeks in

New York City are mostly families and hard-working people "just trying to get ahead like any other community."

Immigrants from the Central Asian, majority Muslim country have settled in Brooklyn neighborhoods including Sheepshead Bay and Brighton Beach, as well as Queens' Forest Hills and Rego Park sections.

"These people, if all the allegations are true, they do not represent our community," Sulton added as he stood in a popular Uzbek restaurant in Sheepshead Bay with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA

L train

One dead, one injured by subways

A man committed suicide by jumping in front of an L train Thursday afternoon,

police confirmed Thursday evening.

The unidentified man took his own life at around 12:57 p.m. at the First Avenue station in lower Manhattan when he jumped in front of the

Brooklyn-bound train.

The MTA cut off power to the train at by 1 p.m. and did not restore it until about 1:50 p.m.

Earlier in the day, a second man was injured in an unrelated incident by an R train in

Brooklyn at around 8:45 a.m.

Officials said the victim leaned over during the morning commute to check on an oncoming Manhattan-bound train at the Fourth Avenue and Union Street station when he fell onto the tracks.

The man only suffered scrapes and cuts from the fall after the train rolled over him and he lay between the tracks. Paramedics rushed him to Lutheran Hospital for treatment.

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A Brooklyn real estate brokerage. / MILES DIXON, METRO

'Emergency' to keep rent control

Housing. City Council members hail "housing emergency" to maintain rent control, stabilization.

to justifying rent control and stabilizations law were advanced — a bill from Councilman Corey Johnson and a resolution from his colleague, Jumaane Williams.

To declare the "emergency," the official vacancy rate must dip below 5 percent. Capital New York reported the current rate to be 3.45 percent.

Panic in the streets?

Not quite. But a real emergency? Many New Yorkers will tell you yeah.

Every three years, the rent regulations that protect city residents living in the five boroughs must be OK'd by Albany.

So on Thursday, two measures that some consider a necessary formality

"Some council members and staff seem to believe that the state cannot renew the state laws unless the city passes a resolution declaring an emergency. This is a common, inaccurate belief, shared by many in and around the council," Michael McKee, the treasurer of Tenants Political Action

Stronger laws

Council members and Mayor Bill de Blasio want Albany to end vacancy de-control. An apartment can become deregulated after hitting \$2,500/month.

Committee, told Capital.

The declaration is needed for the city's own rent protections, which apply to tens of thousands of units, Capital reported, noting that it does not stand in the way of action on the broader rent stabilization law, which applies to about 1 million units.

JOHN A. OSWALD
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Read all about it

Daily News may be sold

Mortimer Zuckerman is considering selling the Daily News.

Zuckerman said in a memo to staff he was approached by an unnamed party about his interest in selling the tabloid.

"Although there were no immediate plans to consider a sale, we thought it would be prudent to explore the possibility and talk to potential buyers and/or investors," he wrote.

The paper retained Lazard to assist.

REUTERS

Toll cheat. Truck used James Bond bumper

A trucker accused of using a James Bond-style retractable bumper to evade a \$95 toll on the George Washington Bridge has been charged with using burglary tools, police said.

Hauling a load of candy across the bridge on Wednesday, Pablo Ortega flipped a switch on his dashboard as he approached the toll gates over the Hudson River.

That engaged a device that tilted up the truck's bumper and attached license plate, said Joseph Pentangelo,



GW toll plaza / GETTY

a Port Authority Police spokesman.

REUTERS

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Five things you need to know

'Jihadi John' uncovered

The masked "Jihadi John" killer who fronted Islamic State beheading videos has been identified as Mohammed Emwazi, a British computer programming graduate from a well-to-do London family.

The black-clad militant brandishing a knife and speaking with an English accent was shown in videos released by Islamic State (ISIS) apparently decapitating hostages including Americans, Britons and Syrians.

The 26-year-old militant used the videos to threaten the West, admonish its Arab allies and taunt President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron before petrified hostages



MOHAMMED
EMWAZI

cowering in orange jump suits.

Emwazi's name was first disclosed by the Washington Post, citing unidentified former associates, but two U.S. government sources who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed to Reuters that investigators believed Jihadi John was Emwazi.

Jihadi John became a menacing symbol of Islamic State brutality and one of the world's most wanted men.

Emwazi was born in Kuwait but came to Britain at age 6 and graduated with a computer programming degree from the University of Westminster before coming to the attention of Britain's main domestic intelligence service, MI5. **REUTERS**

Tougher Internet rules hit US cable, telecom companies

U.S. regulators on Thursday imposed the toughest rules yet on Internet service providers, aiming to ensure fair treatment of all web traffic through their networks.

The Federal Communications Commission voted along party lines, with Democrats in favor, to approve new "net neutrality" rules that seek to restrict broadband providers' power to control download speeds on the web, for instance by potentially giving preference to companies that can afford to pay more. **REUTERS**



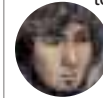
Lives, weapons at stake if budget caps remain: Navy, Marines

Navy and Marine officials told lawmakers that training and weapons programs would be hit hardest if Congress fails to remove budget caps known as "sequestration" that are due to resume in fiscal 2016.

General Joseph Dunford, commandant of the Marine Corps, said the result would be that his military branch would not be able to respond as quickly to crises around the world, or the lives of Marines could be in jeopardy. **REUTERS**

Lawyers for Tsarnaev challenge jury-selection process

Lawyers for the accused Boston Marathon bomber filed on Thursday a last-gasp request to dismiss



the charges against their client or delay the start of the trial next week, contending that court officials had violated their own rules during jury selection.

Attorneys for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev argued in a court filing that after randomly assigning numbers to the more than 1,350 people who reported for initial selection early last month, the court re-ordered the jurors based on arrival time. **REUTERS**

US jury convicts Saudi over Africa embassy bombings

A Saudi man described by prosecutors as one of Osama bin Laden's most trusted lieutenants was convicted in a federal court in New York on Thursday in connection with the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Khalid al-Fawwaz, 52, faces up to life in prison after a jury convicted him on four conspiracy counts on their third day of deliberations. **REUTERS**

Killed

224

The attorney said the verdict marked the 10th conviction at trial or via a guilty plea of a defendant tied to the bombings, which killed 224 people.

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Putin is a 'naked king' facing economic ruin, says former tycoon

Insult.

Khodorkovsky once controlled Russia's biggest oil company, Yukos.

Former Russian tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky said on Thursday Vladimir Putin was a "naked king" presiding over an economy that will weaken further, eventually provoking a battle between rival clans in Moscow.

"Putin with bare chest isn't a mighty leader: He is a naked king," Khodorkovsky, once Russia's richest man who was arrested in 2003 after falling foul of Putin only to be released in 2013, told an audience in London.

Khodorkovsky said the Russian economy would weaken further and that



Vladimir Putin / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"Russia will have to stand long in agony by the bed of the sick emperor," Khodorkovsky

eventually its weakness would provoke a battle between the powerful clans which dominate Russia.

In a message which is likely to anger the 62-year-old Kremlin chief, the former tycoon also called on

the West to build ties with opposition groups in expectation of an end to the Putin era.

"Tomorrow when the regime changes you will have to build a relationship and you will have very little time," Khodorkovsky, 51, told an event organized by Chatham House policy think tank.

Khodorkovsky, who once controlled Yukos Oil Co., was convicted of tax evasion and fraud in a Moscow trial which he said was motivated by enemies who wanted to rip apart his company and punish him for his political ambitions.

He always denied the charges. Yukos was crippled with massive back-tax claims and then its main Siberian oil production units were sold off by the state, only to be bought later by state-controlled companies.

REUTERS



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Senate nears security funding vote. Boehner mum on House plans

With the clock ticking toward a midnight Friday deadline to avoid a partial shutdown of the U.S. domestic security agency, the Senate is moving toward passing a funding bill, but the House of Representatives leader offered no hints of following suit.

The Republican-dominated House has passed a \$39.7 billion bill to pay for Department of Homeland Security operations, but that measure blocks funding for President Barack

Obama's executive order last year lifting the threat of deportation for millions of undocumented immigrants.

Senate Democratic and Republican leaders reached a tentative deal on Wednesday to vote on a spending bill without the House restrictions, although it was unclear when the vote would occur. Senate leaders were trying to get agreement from all 100 members to allow a quick vote. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"The House has done its work. When the Senate does its work, we'll let you know how we will proceed."

House Speaker John Boehner, speaking to reporters



Conservative activists take careful look at a 'squishy' Jeb Bush

Family. Jeb Bush is viewed as more conservative than his father and brother.

Jeb Bush may have wealthy Republican donors backing him, but the former Florida governor will have to woo conservative activists wary of his moderate positions to win his party's 2016 nomination for president.

As a gathering of grassroots conservatives got under way on Thursday, Republican activists were enthusiastic about potential contenders like Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul



Jeb Bush / GETTY IMAGES

and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson.

What about Bush? "Nope. Too squishy," said Mike Potaski, 66, of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, said at the meeting of the Conservative Political Action Conference, the annual speechathon and

Quoted

"Way, way too squishy on immigration."

Paul Schmutzler, 56, of Arlington, Va.

Quoted

"There's nothing really special about him but his name."

Daniel Ashford, 20, Alabama student

CPAC

CPAC serves as an important networking event for conservatives and a testing ground for rising GOP stars.

- It is also a "boot camp to take on liberals," says Tenn. Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn.
- Attendees said they were reluctant to back a prospective candidate they alternately described as too moderate, too bland and too vulnerable to Democratic attacks.

for the conservative foot soldiers who provide much of the party's grassroots energy. **REUTERS**

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Sugar, salt, ingredients you need a college degree to pronounce, let alone understand — there are a lot of reasons to eat fewer processed foods. But scientists just pinpointed a nearly universal ingredient that's in processed foods, and not others, as a major culprit in metabolic syndrome and inflammatory bowel diseases like Crohn's.

Emulsifiers, which are added for texture and to extend shelf life, are altering the microbiome in our gut, changing its composition and causing the migration of what are good bacteria in one area to where they're causing problems like intestinal inflammation.

Earlier studies have shown that even low-grade inflammation can cause overeating.

"The dramatic increase in these diseases has oc-



Keep walking until you reach the produce aisle. / ISTOCK

curred despite consistent human genetics, suggesting a pivotal role for an environmental factor," says co-author Dr. Benoit Chassaing of Georgia State University.

A healthy microbiome in the human gut contains about 100 trillion bacteria, which are rarely found in the intestines. But when those bacteria end up there, they cause inflammation that can

lead to debilitating diseases like ulcerative colitis and metabolic syndrome, an umbrella term for obesity-related disorders that can lead to type 2 diabetes and liver diseases.

The incidence of intestinal and metabolic diseases has shot up since the 1950s, when emulsifiers started becoming widely used in processed foods.

The researchers tested their theory by feeding

mice two commonly used emulsifiers — polysorbate 80 and carboxymethylcellulose — in doses that resembled a typical diet. The rodents' microbiome tipped in favor of inflammation-causing bacteria, which moved into the intestines and ate away at the protective mucus that lines them.

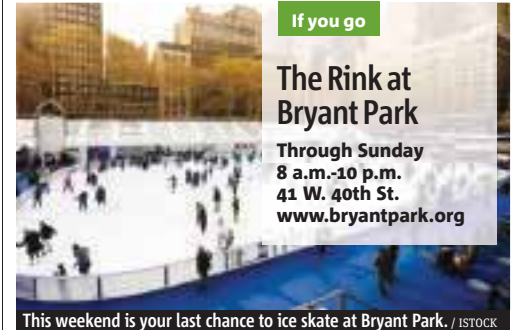
This caused genetically predisposed mice to develop colitis, while mice with normal immune systems showed mild intestinal inflammation and symptoms of metabolic syndrome such as overeating, significant weight gain, high blood sugar and insulin resistance.

The team is now testing a wider range of emulsifiers and designing human trials.



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This weekend is your last chance to ice skate at Bryant Park. / ISTOCK

You're probably all too happy that temperatures are expected to get above freezing this weekend, but it also means it's your last chance to ice skate at Bryant Park. Grab a final cup of hot chocolate at the Winter Village before a spin around The Rink, which closes for the season on Sunday. Skating is free, but rentals cost \$15.

But the outdoor skating season isn't over yet — Lasker Rink in Central

Park is open until March 22, while Wollman Rink and Rockefeller Center are both open until Easter (April 5).

Also this weekend in Bryant Park, bring your budding foodies to the rink on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for classes at the James Beard Foundation Pavilion, as well as demonstrations, a scavenger hunt, entertainment and, of course, samples. **EW**

Quoted

"Our findings reinforce the concept suggested by earlier work that low-grade inflammation resulting from an altered microbiota can be an underlying cause of excess eating." Dr. Andrew T. Gewirtz

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WEALTHY ENTREPRENEUR EYES ONE MORE BIG WIN, NOT NECESSARILY IN BUSINESS



JOHN CATSIMATIDIS

PHOTO BY: JOSEPH VICTOR STEFANCHIK/GETTY IMAGES

To the relief of journalists who have to spell his name, self-made Greek-American businessman John Catsimatidis, 66, is known as Cats and known for many things, including ownership of 30 Gristedes supermarkets, almost all of them in Manhattan.

With a net worth of \$3 billion, according to Forbes, he also develops real estate and builds residential skyscrapers on them, primarily in Brooklyn; he owns oil refineries, gas stations and convenience stores in Pennsylvania; he hosts a weekly talk-radio program

called The Cats Roundtable on WNYN in New York; once a certified jet pilot, he has been involved in aviation for more than 40 years; and he rubs elbows with greats, near-greats, and even a few ingrates, none of whom he cares to identify.

While not a name-dropper, he seems openly proud of his relationship with Bill Clinton. A self-described “moderate Republican” who made a failed bid for the Republican Party’s New York City mayoral nomination in last year’s primary, Cats says of Clinton, “I

consider him a close friend.”

To hear him tell it, Cats has lots of friends and he’s got walls filled with photographs of them in his modest office space, located in a building he owns on 11th Avenue and 56th Street. “Simply put, I like people and I tend to see the best in everyone; what’s more, I like to be liked,” he explains, adding: “These characteristics aren’t always good for business because I hate to fire anyone.”

As for his offices, a longtime friend comments, “The best

two words to describe them are crowded and ugly, but they speak to Cats’ total lack of pretension. He’s just not a show-off, nor is wife Margo; son John, Jr.; and daughter Andrea, who’s married to Richard Nixon’s grandson, Christopher Cox.”

Not incidentally, both of Cats’ children are involved in the family business, John, Jr. in oil and Andrea in supermarkets and real estate. Meanwhile, wife Margo does a lot of charitable work for the family’s foundation and she creates the advertising for the

John Catsimatidis

MAKERS

supermarkets, as well as running the Catsimatidis-owned Greek-American newspaper, The Hellenic Times, in Manhattan.

"I hope the children one day take over the business, but they first must understand what retirement means to me: it means working four days a week," he says, presumably, but not necessarily, tongue in cheek.

It's a sight to behold watching him operate out of a large conference room on the third floor of an older building that also houses a striking, modern Lexus showroom on the street level. Short lines continually form near his usually open door, people waiting for a meeting to conclude before hastily asking, "You got a minute, John?"

He never seems to, but he rarely refuses, unless he has been keeping someone waiting who has an appointment – and he has many of them. He also schedules a lunch date virtually every day and, conservatively, attends at least three charitable events per week in the evenings, always going home first to shower and dress. He personally finds speakers and solicits table sales for a monthly luncheon in behalf of the Police Athletic League, his favorite charity that benefits the city's underprivileged youth. "Helping others is important to me because I've been so fortunate," he says, making no attempt to mask his passion.

Although Cats insists that he's not a micromanager, he indicates otherwise by displaying a willingness to jump into complicated situations "at a moment's notice."

His work ethic was born of necessity, he says. "I got it from my father who worked diligently to take care of his family, first as a lighthouse keeper for 17 years and then, after taking us to the U.S. when I was an infant, as a busboy at Longchamps, the once-famous restaurant chain.

Cats attended Brooklyn Tech High School and then, turning down a congressional nomination to West Point, he chose to study electrical engineering at New York University where he completed four years but fell eight credits short of graduating.

While in college, he worked

for the uncle of a friend in a supermarket in Harlem and bought out the uncle's 50 per cent interest. Cats then opened his own grocery store at Broadway and 99th Street and, soon after, another on 87th Street just west of Broadway. His innovations included staying open late seven days a week, offering free delivery and cashing checks for customers.

"By the time I was 24, I had 10 stores doing a total of \$25 million annually and I was personally earning a million dollars a year," he says without a hint of bragadocio.

While continuing to grow his grocery business, Cats became certified as a jet pilot and started a corporate jet company, at one point counting as many as 40 planes in his fleet. He followed that with the purchase of his first refinery. Through the years, he has added to his real estate holdings and he began building seriously a couple of years ago when the recession ended.

What did his father, who died in 1997, think of his successful son?

"He was very proud of me and I guess the money part began to sink in after a while – but, while I respect money, I've never joined the 'greed parade,' and neither did he," he says earnestly. "And, no matter what else I do, I'll never deviate from that course."

As busy and as successful as he is, Cats admits to moments of restlessness. "It's hard to put into words," he says, "but I'd really like to do one more important thing before calling it a career – maybe something in politics or government. I'll know it when and if I find it."

He adds: "I truly hope the new mayor does a good job and I wish him well because I love our city and I appreciate the fact that it needs a great deal of fixing, something I think I'd be good at, which is one important reason among many that I'm so enthusiastic about my talk-radio show."

Ever the businessman, he smiles, pauses briefly and then says, "Sundays at 9 a.m. on WNYN-970AM. Tell your friends."

by Ira Ellenthal

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The real Margot Robbie

Q&A. The “Focus” starlet prefers youth hostels, thank you very much.

Australian actress and “The Wolf of Wall Street” star Margot Robbie picked up some interesting new skills while making the con artist drama “Focus,” including how to lift people’s wallets. She also, as it turns out, prefers staying in hostels when on vacation, rather than boring, stodgy hotels.

So you were on vacation in Croatia when you heard about your “Focus” audition?

When I got the call, I was staying on the island of Hvar, and I was off that day to all the other islands — the Blue Cave, the Green Cave. It’s insane. It’s one of those hidden gems, but people are really catching onto it now so it’s probably not going to be untouched for long.

Considering how busy you are and how much your profile is rising, shouldn’t you have graduated to regular hotels by now?

Yeah, everyone’s like, “How do you still do that?” I don’t know, I’ve just kept doing it and it’s not been a problem, weirdly enough. I stayed at a hostel in Ireland earlier this year while I was shooting “Tarzan,” and it was fine.



MARGOT ROBBIE PLAYS A CON ARTIST IN “FOCUS.”

ALL PHOTOS FRANK MASI

You know you don’t have to, right?

Yeah, but it’s way more fun, though. You meet so many people in a hostel. When you’re in a hotel, things don’t really happen, you know? When you stay in a hostel, you just get taken off on tangents. You wake up and suddenly someone from Belgium is sleeping in the bed next to you, and they tell you about a part of town you never would’ve discovered sitting in your hotel room. Plus, it’s like \$20 a night for a really nice hostel room. It’s such a bargain.

And I know I can probably afford to stay in hotels now, but I can’t get this ingrained notion of saving money out of my head. I can’t justify wasting money; I just can’t.

There are so many great movies about con artists.

I guess, for both actors choosing to play those roles and people watching the films, it’s living vicariously through someone else and doing things you can’t do in your own life.

But then pickpocketing in movies is so much sexier than in real life.

In the real-world pickpocketing, you get a whole bunch of junk and then you’ve got to find a way to sell it. Once you actually sell it, you’re left with no money. There are no rich pickpockets. You’re basically Oliver Twist. And he wore rags.

But, his friend wore a top hat.

Yeah, he was a baller.



NED EHREBAR
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Bonus question

Apollo Robbins, your sleight-of-hand consultant, says you were the best pickpocketing student among the cast. Do you think you could still pull it off?

When I was training, I definitely could’ve pulled it off — not to toot my own horn — but even when I was super slick at it, having the confidence to do the pulls was the hardest part, and I just don’t have the balls for it. I could definitely steal from someone right now if I didn’t have to engage with them. If they were, like, eating and I could take something out of their bag, or if they’re walking in the street, I could probably take their wallet or phone out of their back pocket. But the inner breast pocket, front pockets, I’d be too scared to do now.

2 CULTURE



Beats working

Her dream job

Margot Robbie has taken on a lot of jobs as an actress — con artist, flight attendant, Wall Street trophy wife — but there’s one occupational aspiration she’s still holding onto:

“I always have this weird ... not fascination, maybe aspiration? Kind of like a secret little dream to work in an office,” Robbie tells Metro. “I hear about my friends having office jokes or an office scavenger hunt or office parties. It just sounds kind of fun.” Nobody break her heart with the truth, OK?

The star. How about some quirky, context-free Will Smith quotes?

Will Smith’s son, Jaden, has become renowned for his off-the-wall proclamations, whether on Twitter or in interviews. But as it turns out, the apple doesn’t far fall from the tree. So we’re going to the source for some pure, uncut Smith family wisdom, from the “Focus” presser.

“This is one of the first times, in my career, where it was full-on, steamy, grown man-ness, and emotion.”

“Reality almost does not matter at all. When you’re talking

to a person, it only matters what they are perceiving.”

“I no longer measure the quality of my self on whether or not somebody else thinks what I paint is beautiful.”

“You only need them to perceive you as a loving husband. You don’t necessarily need to be one.”

“I completely released the concept of goal orientation and got into path orientation.”

“It’s actually nerve-wracking for me, sometimes, to walk into

a new space.”

“I did some stuff [as a kid]. There just wasn’t no Twitter back then.”

“Everybody is running a con. We choose our clothes. We do our hair. Everyone wants to be perceived a certain way, to gain the things that they have decided are the things that they want in their life.”

“Lying and loving don’t go together.”

“Everything is a con.”
NED EHREBAR



Will Smith lords over the grifting comedy “Focus.” / WARNER BROS.



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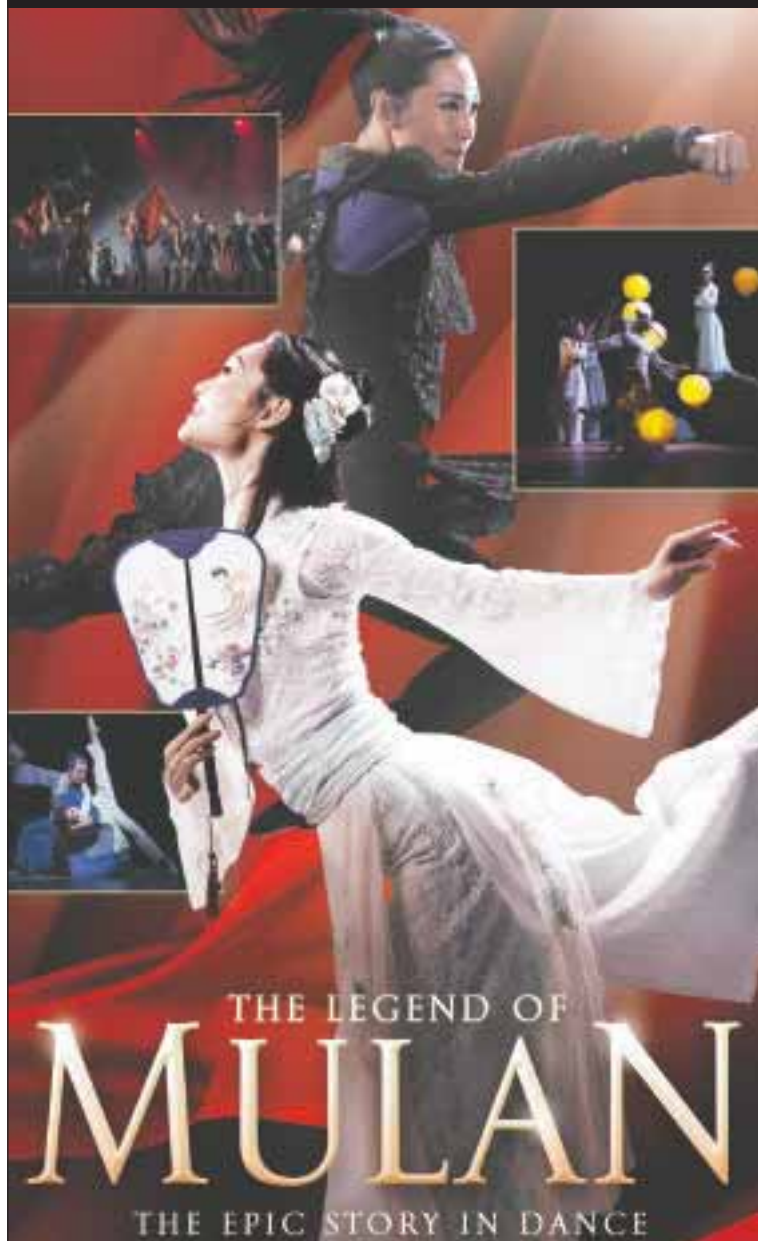
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Tinseltown takedown. Cronenberg offers a cryptic view on Hollywood

Julianne Moore's first released film after her Oscar win finds her as a washed-up aging Hollywood actress — one of many broad L.A. stereotypes floating through the latest from David Cronenberg, including a probably crazy out-of-towner (Mia Wasikowska), a drug-addicted teen star (Evan Bird) and a clueless wannabe actor (Robert Pattinson).

The lowdown: On paper, pairing Cronenberg with writer Bruce Wagner seems counterproductive enough to work. The former has turned away from body horror for more esoteric subjects; the latter ("Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills") never met a foreboding-slappingly easy Hollywood stereotype he didn't use. Together they could create a beautiful dissonance. And at times, with "Maps to the Stars," it seems they have. It's rarely even clear how we're supposed to watch it. Cronenberg has said it's not satire, and it's definitely not funny, or scathing, or insightful, trading as it does in the most obvious L.A. jabs.

But is that, in a sense, the joke? Sort of, in a way.



Julianne Moore plays a weary stereotype of an aging Hollywood actress in David Cronenberg's "Maps to the Stars." / FOCUS WORLD

Review

'Maps to the Stars'

Director: David Cronenberg

Stars: Julianne Moore, Mia Wasikowska

Rating: R



The characters are weary types played wearily. Every actor is directed to act like a pod person, ones who seem to have some vague notion they're lazy inventions, barely even carica-

tures. This isn't a parody of a bad Hollywood satire; it's like an alien world that's an antiseptic, digital film-bland re-creation of Los Angeles, where even the Hollywood sign is on a tiny, disheartening molehill. And yet "Maps to the Stars" still might be the least fascinating film this most interesting of filmmakers has yet made. It's not that the film's steady, flat tone gets old; it's just that there's not much else to dig up after a handful of minutes. It's a one-trick pony with few of the director's highs, one that quickly wears out its welcome. **MATT PRIGGE**

Doc. Campus sex abuse salvo 'The Hunting Ground' is a blunt weapon

Subtlety is not the way to effect meaningful change, and few filmmakers know this like Kirby Dick. The documentarian cranks out crudely effective salvos about Catholic Church abuse ("Twist of Faith"), the MPAA ("This Film Is Not Yet Rated") and closeted Republican politicians ("Outrage"). "The Hunting Ground," co-directed, like some of his films, by Amy Ziering, is his second film in a row on rape, following "The Invisible War," about abuse in the military. Its subject is college campus rape, and it doesn't mince words either, portraying it as a systemic problem, with some universities allegedly not reporting numbers so as to save face and/or to protect valuable students (read: athletes).

Could this subject bear more nuanced reporting



The covering-up and ignoring of sex abuse on college campuses gets profiled in Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering's latest activist doc, "The Hunting Ground." / RADIUS-TWC

Review

'The Hunting Ground'

Directors: Kirby Dick, Amy Ziering

Genre: Documentary

Rating: NR



than it gets? That's not even in doubt. But crudeness doesn't make it any less important. Movies still have greater stature in the public consciousness, and a blunt weapon used for a just cause is what this cause needs. That's not to say "The Hunting Ground" is all alarmism and hysteria all the time. In fact, it can be quite calm and moving, and in only moderately manipulative ways. (Kirby Dick is rarely subtle, but he's never cartoonish.) It gives time to each alleged victim, which is more than many get from the powers that be, who tend to be strident, accusatory and sometimes indifferent. "The Hunting Ground" didn't have to do much more than wrangle attention toward an important issue, but it does slightly more than that. **MP**

Donald Glover has dimensions, man

Interview. The “Lazarus Effect” star and Childish Gambino rapper on keeping fans confused

Donald Glover doesn't like to be pigeonholed. In fact, he's crafting his career specifically to keep you guessing. His latest move? Starring alongside Olivia Wilde and Mark Duplass in “The Lazarus Effect,” a thriller from the leading producer of economically minded horror, Jason Blum (“Paranormal Activity”).

When you meet someone like Jason Blum, what do you pick his brain about?

To be real, I just like to observe a lot more just because you learn more. I feel like people put things on questions a little bit, like what is this person trying to get from me? So I just watched, and he's a real creative. He's a good decision-maker, and he really understands what makes something intrinsically watchable. And he fights for the creatives, which is cool.

Have you been wanting to do this type of movie for a while?

Yeah. I think a lot of people just would have expected me to do a bunch of indie films, which is



Donald Glover is a scientist in “The Lazarus Effect.” / SUZANNE HANOVER

cool, and I like that stuff, and I have a lot of friends who do indie films. But I was like, you know, let's go for a hard genre film. It was kind of the opposite of everything. I always try to make people not see me one way. I feel like once that happens, you're boxed in and you can't really explore anything else. Not to say that's bad — that's good for somebody who's into that. But not for me.

So since there's going to be a new Spider-Man, have you heard any more of the campaigning to get you for the role?

Yeah, there's that stuff. I'm like, have at it, guys! You guys do what you feel. Again. Of course it would be a great honor to play Spider-Man, but I'm always like, what's best for the

movie? I'm not trying to be like, “This is the moment.” It's like, no, make a dope movie. I'm really excited for Marvel. They make good s—. Obviously, with “Captain America,” I know [the Russo brothers] care about their product, and I just want the product to be good.

But you have to appreciate that kind of vote of confidence from fans online.

Oh, yeah. But I also appreciate people being like, “He would be a horrible choice.” No, seriously, I really do appreciate that. You always want that conversation. That means it's interesting.



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Alter ego

Since you have so many different things going on, do you find you run into fans who only really know one thing, like Childish Gambino or “Community”?

People don't really use confusion like they should. Life is confusing. [Laughs] I'm not linear, and also I don't find it interesting when actors or celebrities are one thing, like one-dimensional. I want people to have to have a discussion about it. The honest truth is, if you want me to be one-dimensional, it's super easy to do that. Clay Aiken could be the biggest

star in the world on your timeline if you only follow that s—. If people want to feel certain ways about me or see me a certain way, they totally are open to. But I'm a Libra; there's always another side.

You can't really control other people's perceptions, though.

You can't really. It's not really up



REX USA

to you. But if somebody else runs into them like, “Oh yeah, I love him,” then they have to do more research. I'm always trying to make people do more, think more. I don't want to get too deep into this kind of stuff, but I just care a lot about that kind of stuff, so I try to make people do a little work.

How dare you.

I know, I know. [Laughs]

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Con movie. Will Smith lets Margot Robbie steal the new 'Focus' right from under him

Will Smith plays a seasoned confidence man who takes under his wing a hopeless amateur (Margot Robbie). But is he scamming her? Or is he actually in love?

The lowdown: Much like the submarine picture, the con artist movie is one of those genres that filmmakers screw up only if they're trying to screw it up. "Focus" is more ambitious. It aspires to the likes of the grotesquely underrated Julia Roberts-Clive Owen-starring "Duplicity": a con movie in which professional liars fall for each other and only wind up wondering if they really can love at all. That may sound soapy, but in this profession, it plays like existential dread — a job that by definition requires eternal loneliness.

"Focus" doesn't get as far as "Duplicity." It's much too sloppy, especially in its middle section, to do the complex thing it



Will Smith isn't having as much fun as Margot Robbie in "Focus." / WARNER BROS.

Review

'Focus'

Directors: Glenn Ficarra, John Requa

Stars: Will Smith, Margot Robbie

Rating: R



wants to do. It even peaks early, with a set piece that begins unassumingly then slowly, confidently steps things up, increment by increment, until viewers' nerves are shattered.

Still, it's hard to screw up a con movie, and filmmakers Glenn Ficarra and Jon Requa ("I Love You Philip Morris") know a thing or two about long cons. There are some doozies where the reveal,

if not the build-up itself, is hugely pleasurable. Even the notion that our two leads don't have sparkling chemistry winds up making a kind of sense. Smith is aiming for Golden Age movie-star charisma, but he's too laid-back, especially for the pepped-up, kooky Robbie. Instead of coasting on a shared wavelength, he lets her have the movie. And she happily takes it. **MATT PRIGGE**

Review

'The Lazarus Effect'



A low-budget horror number boasting such unlikely cast members as Mark Duplass and Donald Glover — not to mention an actually well-used Olivia Wilde — is all but setting itself up for disappointment. Even considering that, it's almost impressive how dumb and rote "The Lazarus Effect" becomes. Concerning scientists who wind up using their experimental resuscitating serum on one of their own (Wilde) after she dies, it goes from promisingly smart to full-on stupid

once Wilde has turned into a mere monster. It's beneath anonymous hackwork, as most careless studio chillers — say, last year's "Ouija" — would know better than to kill the black guy first.

At its heart, this is an exploration of grief and delusion, with Duplass' character throwing caution and logic to the wind to ease his sorrows. But this idea is quickly abandoned. At least Wilde is trying. An actress regularly called on to do far less than she can, she at least gets a chance to show off her range, going from believable, complex person to anonymous boogeyperson. She deserves better. **MP**



Olivia Wilde goes to the dark side in "The Lazarus Effect." / RELATIVITY MEDIA

Review



Alia Shawkat and Sophia Takal try to solve a murder that might not have happened in "Wild Canaries." / IFC FILMS

'Wild Canaries'



"Wild Canaries" is a polished indie homage to screwball comedy, but its retro fever is not shallow. Its understanding of the subgenre runs deep. Telling of a Brooklyn couple (Sophia Takal and Lawrence Michael Levine) who suspect their neighbor was murdered, it doesn't even have many screwball hallmarks: The dialogue, while often very funny, remains mumbly and off-the-cuff; there are pratfalls but it doesn't make a meal of them; the narrative is often driven by character, not story.

But it nails the under-

current of these films. It's one of those screwballs the philosopher Stanley Cavell dubbed "comedies of remarriage" — ones, like, "The Awful Truth," in which a couple flirt with consciously uncoupling but, through a turn of silly, madcap events, rediscover each other. It's a film that doesn't shy away from the idea that marriage is a crazy, crazy concept, and that one should definitely ask the tough questions about whether or not to spend one's life with someone, especially one whose personality type is quite different from one's own. It just happens to do this while finding room for a killer reclining car seat gag. **MP**



Lin-Manuel Miranda wrote and stars in "Hamilton" at the Public Theater. // JOAN MARCUS

'Hamilton' is the best play you can't see (yet)

Theater. The historical hip-hop musical is headed for Broadway.

Women: Please stop dragging your husbands to sold-out shows they don't want to see. Take "Hamilton," the outstanding new hip-hop musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda ("In the Heights") about Alexander Hamilton. The show just opened Feb. 17 at the Public Theater, yet its run through May 3 is already sold out. It's already attracted marquee talent in "Spring Awakening" alum Jonathan Groff, who will take over the role of King George beginning Tuesday, and the show will make the rare jump to Broadway, with previews beginning July 13.

In a theater with literally no empty seats, it's really hard to sit next to the grump who says he "doesn't get it" and seems like he'd rather be home watching ESPN. You see, ladies, there are hundreds of people who would duel it out with pistols for that row L center seat, and you just had to waste it on your

husband, who "can't understand" the language of rap.

Here's why "Hamilton" is causing such a tremendous fuss: It's absolutely the best thing onstage right now in New York City. Working from the biography by Ron Chernow, Miranda turns the oft-overlooked founding father into an accessible protagonist who's consumed by his passion for justice and desperate to leave behind a legacy. Like "Heights," it succeeds in its transparency and honesty; it does best when Miranda is sharing his own life experience through the quick and complex lyrics. Hamilton and Miranda share the same immigrant background, big mouth and fervor for getting their

Quoted

"Here's why 'Hamilton' is causing such a tremendous fuss: It's absolutely the best thing onstage right now in New York City."

truths out. Obviously, it makes sense that Miranda also stars in the titular role — and it's his best performance to date.

The cast also includes Leslie Odom Jr. (Aaron Burr) and Christopher Jackson (George Washington), though songbird Phillipa Soo and an especially waggish Brian d'Arcy James arguably steal the show as Eliza Hamilton and King George, respectively. (Groff will undoubtedly be equally titillating.) The costumes nod to 1776, and the set is extremely simple, with a rotating floor and horse-shoe balcony. The restraint wisely places emphasis on the story and the words, and it also screams "affordable" and "transportable."

So even though the ticket was wasted on your husband, it's only delayed gratification for the person who could've had his seat. Once the musical hits Broadway, it will probably, and rightly, run long enough for everyone to see it. But please leave any stodgy, ungrateful husbands at home.

T. MICHELLE MURPHY
@metronewyork
letters@metro.us

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TV watch list

COMEDY

'Saturday Night Live'

"Fifty Shades of Grey" star Dakota Johnson steps in to host this week, meaning you can expect at least one uncomfortable parody of the movie. **SATURDAY, 11:30 P.M., NBC**



ON "THE GOOD WIFE,"
ED ASNER GUEST STARS AS A
BIG CAMPAIGN DONOR. / CBS

DRAMA

'The Good Wife'

Alicia and Frank Prady vie for the same big campaign donation, while Diane and Cary work on a case for Colin Sweeney (Dylan Baker), who says an unflattering TV character is based on him. **SUNDAY, 9 P.M., CBS**

DRAMA

'Downton Abbey'

In the most "Downton" plotline ever, the family goes to a shooting party hosted by Lord Sinderby in Northumberland. Just what you were planning to do with your weekend, right? They'll also be celebrating Christmas, because seasons are different in Downton-land. **SEASON FINALE, SUNDAY, 9 P.M., PBS**

Will Forte outlives us all

Interview. The comedian plays the only survivor of a catastrophic event on his new show.

Will Forte stars in the very high-concept "The Last Man on Earth," a new comedy that is basically what it sounds like. His Phil Miller is the only man left on the planet, and the series has fun with the ways Phil passes his time, from bowling over a stack of filled aquariums to mocking Wilson from "Cast Away," before desperately creating his own group of named ball friends. We talked to Forte at a party, where he was gracious enough to be interviewed even though he'd misplaced his cell phone.

Were you nervous at all about being the only character?

That was very exciting, to think about that. What we had to do was get Fox on board with that. They claimed from the beginning that they were OK with that, and we were skeptical, and they lived up to their word and they were great. They let us do the show we wanted to do, and it was very exciting. We wanted to do something that was a little different, and that was by design, and they have been so wonderfully supportive.

How did you come up with what he would do



Catch Forte (and his ball friends) in "The Last Man on Earth" this Sunday at 9 p.m. on Fox in the one-hour premiere. / JORDIN ALTHAUS, FOX



with all that free time?

It was a lot of just figuring out with the writers what we would do in that situation and a lot of our own wish fulfillment, so that was a really fun part of the process.

I heard you were the one who came up with all the ball names.

I named all the balls, and I drew all the faces on the balls because I'm a control freak.

Do you get to shave the beard between seasons?

Yes, absolutely.

Is it hot to film with the beard out in the desert?

It wasn't that bad. The beard was never a huge problem except for eating. Eating was a huge pain in the butt.



LISA WEIDENFELD
@LisaWeidenfeld
lisa.weidenfeld@metro.us

Party talk

An interruption

Toward the end of our conversation, "Mad Men" star January Jones joined us. She's been announced as a cast member, but no details about her character have been released.

January Jones: I need to talk to you about something.

Forte: OK.

Jones: One last question.

Who do you play?

Jones: I play Betty Draper Francis.

Forte: She might be a dream sequence or a flashback. We're keeping some mysteries in the show. It's exciting because the show goes in a bunch of twisty-turny areas.

Jones: He can't say anything.

Forte: Fox has been really great about helping us keep secrets.

People are being pretty cagey with details.

Jones: With everything in the media being so open and everything in your face, it's nice to have something kept secret, right?

Forte: The media so far has been helping us keep the secrets and it's great. But she's a vital or non-vital part of the show.

Jones: I concur.

Mystery man: Jon Benjamin asked me to give you this. [He plants a kiss on Forte.] And also this. [He hands Forte his cell phone.]

Forte: Oh my god, thank you very much. That's it, that's the one!

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Someone stole that awesome Lupita Nyong'o Oscars dress

This is just terrible. Remember that ridiculously pretty dress Lupita Nyong'o wore to the Oscars last weekend? The one made from more than 6,000 Akoya pearls? Well, according to TMZ, someone broke into her hotel room at the London in West Hollywood on Tuesday and stole it. Yes, just walked out of the hotel with it. The gown, by Calvin Klein Collection, is said to be worth about \$150,000. Police are currently investigating, and there is said to be security footage of the crime as it happened. Hopefully designers won't hold this incident against Nyong'o, who has become something of a red carpet fashion plate since she came on the scene for "12 Years a Slave," as that's a trend that should totally continue.



ALL PHOTOS REX USA

Robin Thicke gives very entertaining testimony

I've heard of witnesses doing a song and dance on the stand, but this is ridiculous. (It's funnier if you read it in a Groucho Marx voice, I swear.) But anyway: Robin Thicke was in court this week to defend himself against claims by Marvin Gaye's family that "Blurred Lines" is a total rip off of the Gaye classic "Gotta Give it Up." And during his testimony, he apparently decided it was better to show than to tell. Thicke propped up a keyboard on the witness stand and worked through a medley of songs by U2, Bob Marley, Alphaville and Michael Jackson to prove how similar some pop songs can sound. He also confirmed that he was "high and drunk" during just about every interview he did last year, so he totally can't be held accountable for whatever he told the press, OK?



Here's a re-enactment of his musical testimony. / GETTY

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

'Fifty Shades of Grey' not doing it for Ice-T

You mean to tell me Ice-T wasn't that impressed with the raunchiness of "Fifty Shades of Grey"? Apparently so. The rapper and "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" star even goes

so far as to say the movie "could've been on Nickelodeon." Ouch. (And not the fun kind of ouch.) "I went to see it with Coco. Coco read the books, and she said they were boring. She didn't make me go, I wanted to see what all the women were talking about," he tells Jimmy Fallon during an interview. "It just kept building up. And I'm like, 'What's gonna happen? What's gonna happen?' And she told me that's just how the books are. It's kinda like 'Lost,' where you think something's gonna happen, and you keep watching it."



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Daily video

Mary Poppins sings death metal

This will wake you up. Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke get a death-metal makeover in this hair-raising rendition of "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." And yes, sure,



ANDY REHFELDT, YOUTUBE

the sound of it is probably something quite atrocious to some listeners, but I'm

just going to sit here and soak in the awesomeness. And giggle.

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Horoscope

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
A preoccupation with professional responsibilities will take its toll on an important relationship. Friction is likely unless you make an effort.

Aries | March 21-April 20
An expensive vacation will lead to debt. However, you can add a spark to your day with a congenial gathering of friends.

Taurus | April 21-May 21
Beneficial changes can be made if you join forces with like-minded people. Superiors will be receptive to your ideas if you present facts and offer solutions.

Gemini | May 22-June 20
Don't be afraid to ask for help if you are feeling drained or disappointed about a personal issue. Look to a trusted friend.

Cancer | June 21-July 22
You'll experience a low-energy cycle. You can improve your mood by getting involved in activities that bring you joy.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
You need to take better care of yourself. You cannot be at your best if you give in to overindulgence. Use your imagination and envision a healthier and happier you.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You will be disappointed by someone who reneges on a promise. In order to meet a deadline, put in extra hours.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Don't be too hard on yourself. You have the intelligence and intuition to succeed. Trust in your abilities is important.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21
You'll face a minor disagreement. Do your best to keep the peace by making concessions and sharing household responsibilities. Being flexible will spare you grief.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You need to remain open to innovative ideas and educational opportunities. Positive changes are possible if you branch out.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Your sense of humor will lead to greater popularity. Others will be startled to see how entertaining you can be.

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Don't hold back when it comes to sharing your creativity. Lucrative gains are imminent if you attract the attention of intellectual allies. **EUGENIA LAST**

Sudoku: Easy and hard

5		7					8	
				9		7		4
	6		7				3	5
1					9	8		
		6	5	4	3	1		
		5	8					2
2	9				7		4	
6		1		2				
	4					9		1

		4	7					2
2	1			5			3	6
				8	9			
1	8			5				
4		5				3		7
			9				8	1
		1	5					
3	2			1			7	5
7					2	1		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across

- 1 Microbiology gel
- 5 Unpaid
- 10 Meatloaf serving
- 14 High Asian desert
- 15 Less
- 16 Ice-fishing need
- 17 Burglar's take
- 18 Kid or rib
- 19 Reed instrument
- 20 Top story
- 22 Eliminate (2 wds.)
- 24 Collars
- 27 Rabbit dish
- 28 Aussie hopper
- 32 Former frosh
- 36 Brady bill opposer
- 37 Lowest ebb
- 39 Traffic indicator
- 40 Dumpster output
- 42 Ocean, in Mongolian
- 44 Genial
- 45 Turns up
- 47 Minority groups
- 49 Belly dance instrument
- 50 Tiny shrimp
- 51 Way out
- 53 Vast ages
- 56 Thick carpeting
- 57 Took a poll
- 61 Cellist — Casals
- 65 "Watermark" chanteuse
- 66 Magna cum —

Down

- 69 Roulette color
- 70 TV genie portrayed
- 71 Earthenware pots
- 72 Well-behaved kid
- 73 Battery terminal
- 74 "Bye Bye Bye" band
- 75 Pretentious
- 1 Turkish official
- 2 Zodiac animal
- 3 Just touch
- 4 Ticking off
- 5 Over and over
- 6 Itty-bitty
- 7 "— — framed!"
- 8 Twig-and-mud homes
- 9 "— Balls of Fire"
- 10 Ready for discount
- 11 Gray wolf
- 12 Slugger Moises —
- 13 Root vegetable
- 21 "Slither" actor
- 23 Butte cousin
- 25 Headless nail
- 26 Soft drinks
- 28 Engine noise
- 29 Intense feeling
- 30 Model — Campbell
- 31 Edmonton puckster
- 33 Title below abbot

- 34 Conjuror's first word?
- 35 Nobel or Garbo
- 38 5K and 10K
- 41 To the point
- 43 Have poison ivy
- 46 Wild plum
- 48 Motel freebie
- 52 African nation
- 54 Parachute material
- 55 Closes tightly
- 57 Flow slowly
- 58 Loosen
- 59 Blended whiskeys
- 60 As expected
- 62 Rude person
- 63 Cheerful tune
- 64 Paris hub
- 67 Aykroyd or Rather
- 68 PC key

Thursday's answer



Letters to the editor

Immigrants for gas line

Re: 'Keystone won't create jobs' (Metro, Feb. 26) Whenever the subject of allowing the Keystone pipeline to go forward is mentioned, one can expect some hysterical environmental objection in spite of the fact that it would create many jobs, help both the Canadian economy and energy security in the U.S. and is supported by a majority of Americans. I think Obama and the Republicans should do some horse trading: Allow Keystone to go forward and in exchange Republicans will allow Obama to have the temporary suspension of deportations of illegal aliens that he wants.

**GEORGE CHRISTIAN JR.,
VIA EMAIL**

Bad policy

President Obama's decision to reform America by pulling the U.S. off the world stage as a leader and a beacon of freedom in a world of dictatorships and fanatics is proving to be a mistake of grave proportions: ISIS expansion and murders continue. Putin is imposing his will on Ukraine, which will be part of Russia when Putin decides the apple is ripe for picking. The turmoil in Africa increases with Boko Haram's slaughtering of Muslims and Christians. Obama's policy of retreat will leave the U.S. and the world much worse off.

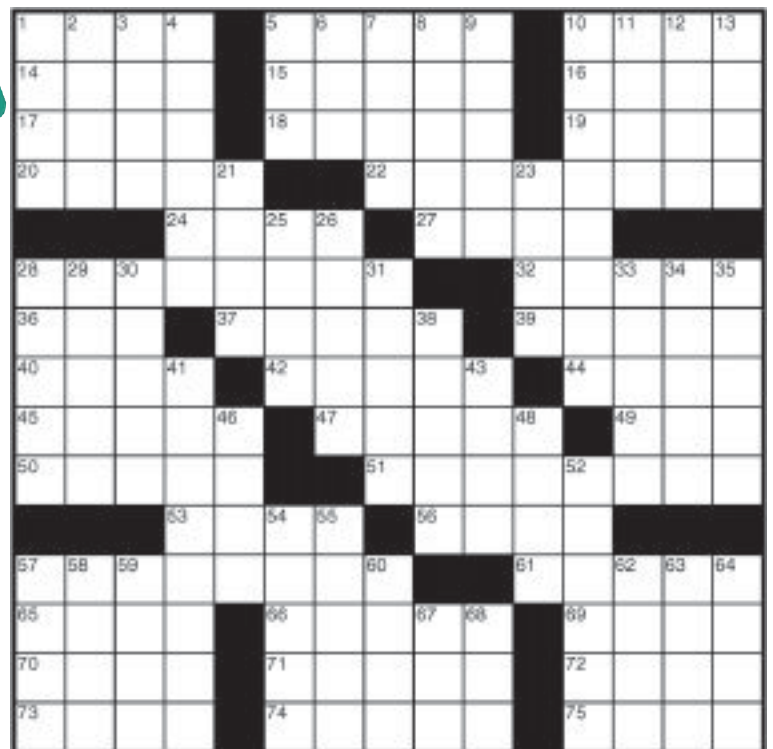
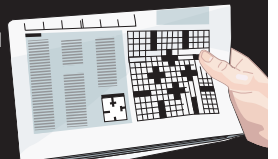
JOHN McLAUGHLIN

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Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.



MONSTER TRADES CHANGED NBA'S FANTASY LANDSCAPE

There are a lot of non-sporting events in sports that are great, such as the NFL combine and free agency. The NBA's trade deadline is arguably the most fun. Last week's record-setter saw 37 players get moved, leaving owners' heads spinning. When the dizziness stopped, we had some guys get a serious boost in value:

Jackson high-five

Unhappy and buried in Oklahoma City, savvy owners were stashing Reggie Jackson for his inevitable move toward greener pastures. He couldn't have landed in a much better spot than Detroit, as Stan Van Gundy encourages up-tempo play and likes aggressive point guards. Jackson is certainly that, as evidenced by his career averages of 15.9 points, 5.8 assists and 4.2 rebounds as a starter. With Brandon Jennings (Achilles) done for the year, R-Jax is going to return top-50 value.

Load the Canaan

The Sixers badly wanted Isaiah Canaan in the 2013 draft, but instead Sam Hinkie's mentor (Daryl Morey) snagged him one pick ahead of their spot in the second round. So

Hinkie had to wait, but he got his man at the deadline by giving up a talented prospect in K.J. McDaniels. Canaan was not a throw-in — this is a player the franchise thinks can develop into a long-term asset. Most importantly for our purposes, Canaan is an excellent 3-point shooter (2.9 makes per 36-minutes in his NBA career). It's been a rocky start, but he's going to help owners significantly as a core piece that plays 30-35 minutes nightly for the Tankers.

Galloping Gallo

The Nuggets are among the bigger train wrecks in the NBA. One thing they knew they wanted to do was move Arron Afflalo and go with a big starting lineup that featured Danilo Gallinari at the shooting guard spot. That's opened up plenty of room for the 6-foot-10 Italian to fire away from the land of trey, as he made eight of them in three games after the trade. When a player can dominate one category so profoundly, he can win weeks with ease. Head-to-head owners should be assembling playoff rosters with specialists like Gallo in their five "go-to" categories.

Pickups of the week

Top NBA adds:

- **Aaron Brooks, PG, Bulls:** Brooks will have to share time with Kirk Hinrich, but there's room with Derrick Rose down again.
- **Ersan Ilyasova, PF, Bucks:** For now, Ersan is in Jason Kidd's good graces and has a starting role locked up.
- **Terrence Jones, PF, Rockets:** Finally healthy again, Jones is a double-double waiting to happen. He'll keep starting even when Dwight Howard returns.

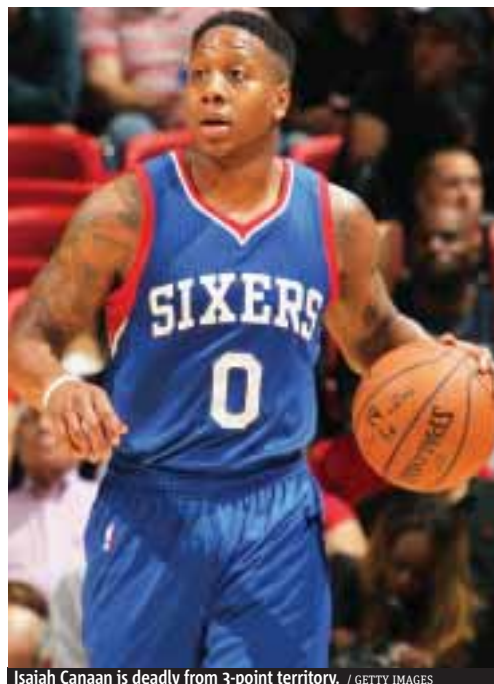
NFL news

Combine warrior:

- The star of the Combine was West Virginia WR Kevin White, who smoked a 4.35 at 6'3"/215 and benched 225 pounds 23 times putting himself in position to go in the top-5.



FANTASY SPORTS
ADAM LEVITAN
alevitan@metro.us



Isaiah Canaan is deadly from 3-point territory. / GETTY IMAGES

NHL. Rangers continue to cruise while 'King' inches toward return



Henrik Lundqvist has been out since early February.
GETTY IMAGES

Cam Talbot has performed exceptionally well for the Rangers in net since All-World net-minder Henrik Lundqvist went down with a blood vessel injury in late January. New York has seven wins to just three losses with Talbot in goal since the start of the month.

This does not mean that the Rangers don't want Lundqvist back soon, of course. The team said that Lundqvist would be re-evaluated by doctors by the end of February and head coach Alain Vigneault told the Daily News this week

By the numbers

2.46

Henrik Lundqvist's backup, Cam Talbot, has performed well for New York this season, owning a 2.46 GAA to go along with a 11-5-3 record.

that Lundqvist has been practicing and taking shots on net.

The Rangers play at Philly on Saturday (8 p.m., NBC) before returning home to face the Predators Monday (7 p.m., MSG). Monday is also the day of the league trade deadline. **MATT BURKE**

3

SPORTS



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STRAIGHT Talk



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REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW, that the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition for Food Corp. to modify and continue to maintain, and operate an enclosed sidewalk café at 88 2nd Avenue, in the Borough of Manhattan for a term of two years.

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